



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Honorable James M. Jeffords
The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate

The Honorable John A. Boehner
The Honorable George Miller
Committee on Education and the Workforce
House of Representatives

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 require the Department of Education to collect, analyze, and report to Congress on the incidence of crime on campuses and facilities of postsecondary education institutions. The Department collected these statistics between August 17, 2000 and October 24, 2000.

The Department's effort was designed to collect three years of data (1997, 1998, and 1999). The Department required institutions to report campus crime statistics based on the law and regulations appropriate to the period of time for which the data were being reported. These data are accessible to the public on the Department's website at <http://ope.ed.gov/security>.

When the data collection period closed, we determined that 246 institutions had not reported any of the required crime data. Enforcement action was initiated. Regional case management teams contacted these institutions. As a result of this effort, 188 institutions came into compliance. The Department then mailed letters to the institutions that remained out of compliance, informing them that must produce the required crime data within 15 days or be fined. As a result of this effort, all institutions provided the required statistics. The success of this effort reflects the significant cooperation that the Department received from postsecondary education institutions and higher education associations (including the association that represents campus law enforcement).

The campus crime statistics collected by the U.S. Department of Education suggest that our nation's college campuses are safe. In nearly every category of crime for which data were collected, college campuses showed a lower incidence of crime than comparable data for the nation as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Lee Fritschler", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

A. Lee Fritschler